

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises an antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule coupled to an antigen, wherein said APC-targeting molecule is a mutated superantigen having one or more mutations only in its T cell binding site as compared to its wild-type counterpart and wherein the conjugate is capable of binding to a Class II MHC molecule.
3. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the mutation of the T-cell receptor binding site is a substitution, deletion or addition.
4. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the T-cell binding site of the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule has been deleted.
5. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is a mutated superantigen of *Staphylococcus aureus* and/or *Streptococcus pyogenes*.
6. (Currently Amended) A conjugate according to claim 5, wherein the mutated superantigen is a mutant form of a wild type SPE-C (SPE-C mutant).
- 7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the antigen-presenting- cell (APC) targeting molecule is coupled reversibly to the antigen.

11. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the antigen is a protein, a polypeptide and/or a peptide.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the antigen is non-immunogenic when not coupled to the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising a conjugate according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, excipient and/or solvent.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine comprising a conjugate according to claim 2.

17. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of a disorder which requires the induction or stimulation of the immune system, comprising the administration to a subject requiring such treatment of an immunomodulator according to claim 2.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic infection, autoimmunity, allergy and/or pre-neoplastic or neoplastic transformation.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of preparing an immunomodulatory conjugate comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing a modification and/or a deletion into the T-cell binding site of an antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule which is a superantigen, and

(b) coupling thereto and immunomodulatory antigen to produce a conjugate, wherein the conjugate is capable of binding to a Class II MHC molecule.

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is selected from the group of SPE-C, SMEZ and SEA.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is SPE-C Y15A R181Q.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is designated SPEC-Y15A.C27S.N79C.R181Q.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is SPEC (-20-90).

26. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of increasing antigenicity of a compound, comprising coupling of said compound to an antigen-presenting-cell (APC) targeting molecule to produce a conjugate, wherein said APC targeting molecule is a mutated superantigen having one or more mutations only in its T cell binding site as compared to its wild-type counterpart and the conjugate is capable of binding to a Class II MHC molecule.

27. (Cancelled)
28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the T-cell receptor binding site, or at least a part thereof, of the antigen-presenting-cell (APC) targeting molecule has been modified by substitution or addition.
29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the T-cell binding site of the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule has been deleted.
30. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is a mutated superantigen of *Staphylococcus aureus* and/or *Streptococcus pyogenes*.
31. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is a mutated SPE-C, SMEZ and/or SEA.
32. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is designated SPEC-Y15A as herein defined.
33. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is designated SPEC-Y15A R181Q.
34. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is designated SPEC-Y15A.C27S.N79C.R181Q
35. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, wherein the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule is SPEC (-20-90).

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the antigen-presenting- cell (APC) targeting molecule is coupled reversibly to said compound.

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a polypeptide and/or a peptide, a carbohydrate or a nucleic acid.

38. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, wherein the compound is non-immunogenic when not coupled to the antigen-presenting cell (APC) targeting molecule.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the wild type SPE-C has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and the SPE-C mutant [[is]] has an Y15A mutation in SEQ ID NO: 2 (SPEC-Y15A).

41. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the wild type SPE-C has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and the SPE-C mutant [[is]] has an Y15A mutation and an R181Q mutation in SEQ ID NO: 2 (SPEC-Y15A.R181Q).

42. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the wild type SPE-C has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and the SPE-C mutant [[is]] has an Y15A mutation, a C27S mutation, an N79C mutation, and an R181Q mutation in SEQ ID NO: 2 (SPEC-Y15A.C27S.N79C.R181Q).

43. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim 6, wherein the wild type SPE-C has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and the SPE-C mutant [[is]] has a deletion of residues of 22-90 of SEQ ID NO: 2 (SPEC(-20-90).

44. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim [[39]] 2, wherein the APC-targeting molecule is a mutated form of a wild type SPE-C having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, in which the amino acid residue Y15 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is mutated.

45. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim [[39]] 2, wherein the APC-targeting molecule is a mutated form of a wild type SPE-C having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, in which the amino acid residue R181 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is mutated.